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A Quakers Sea-Journal:

BEING A TRUE

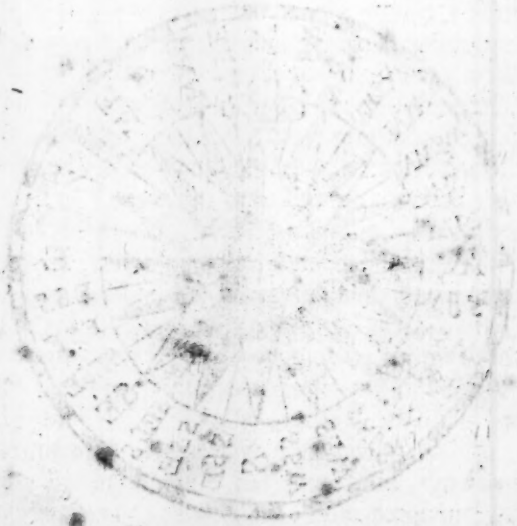
RELATION

Of a Voyage to

NEW-ENGLAND.

Performed by ROBERT FOWLER of the Town of *Burlington* in *Yorkshire*, in the Year 1658.

London, Printed for *Francis Coffinet*, at the Anchor & Mariner in Tower-street. *Anno* 1659.



A true Relation of the Voyage undertaken by me Robert Fowler, *with my ſmall Veſſel called the* Woodhouſe, *but performed by the Lord, like as he did* Noahs *Ark, wherein he ſhut up a few righteous perſons, and landed them as ſafe, even as at the Hill* Ararat.

The true Diſcourſe taken as followeth:

THis Veſſel was appointed for this ſervice from the beginning, as I have often had it manifeſted unto me, that it was ſaid within me ſeveral times, *Thou hath her not for nothing*, and alſo *New-England* preſented before me; alſo when ſhe was finiſhed and fraughted, and made to Sea, contrary to my will, was brought to *London*, where ſpeaking touching this matter to *Gerrard Roberts* and others, who confirmed the matter in behalf of the Lord, that it muſt be ſo; yet entring into reaſoning, and letting in temptations and hardſhips, and the loſs of my life, wife and children, with the enjoyments of all earthly things, it brought me as low as the grave, and laid me as one dead, as to the things of God, but by his Inſtrument *G. F.* was I refreſhed and raiſed up again, which before that it was much contrary to my ſelf, that I could as willingly have died, as have gone, but by the ſtrength of God I was made willing to do his will; yea, the cuſtoms and faſhions of the Cuſtom-Houſe could not ſtop me: ſtill was I aſſaulted with the Enemy, who preſſed from me my ſervants, ſo that for this long Voyage we were but two men and three boys, beſides my ſelf. Upon the firſt day of the fourth Moneth received I the Lords ſervants aboard, who came with a mighty hand and an out-ſtretched arm with

them, so that with courage we set Sayl and came into the *Downs* the second day, where our dearly beloved *W. D.* with *Mich. Tomson* came aboard, and in them we were much refreshed, and after recommending us to the grace of God, we lanched forth: Again reason entred upon me, and thoughts rose in me to have gone to the Admiral, and have made my complaint for the want of my servants and a Convoy, from which thing was I withholden by that hand which was my helper: Shortly after the South winde blew a little hard, so that it caused us to put in at *Portsmouth*, where I was furnished with choice of men, according to one of the Captains words to me, *That I might have enough for money*, but he said my Vessel was so small, he would not go the Voyage for her. Certain days we lay there, wherein the Ministers of Christ were not idle, but went forth and gathered sticks, and kindled a fire, and left it burning; also several friends came aboard and visited us, in which we were refreshed: Again we lanched from thence about the eleventh day, and was put back again into *South-Yarmouth*, where we went ashore, and in some measure did the like; also we met with three pretty large ships, which were for the *New-found Land*, who did accompany us about 50 leagues, but might have done 300, if they had not feared the Men of War, but for escaping them they took to the Northwards, and left us without hope of help to the outward, which before our parting it was shewed to *H. N.* early in the morning, that they were nigh unto us that sought our lives, and called unto me, and told me, but said he, thus saith the Lord, You shall be carryed away as in a Mist, and presently we espied a great Ship making up towards us, and the three great Ships were much afraid, and tacked about with what speed they could for it; in the very

very interim the Lord God fulfilled his promiſe, and ſtruck our enemies in the face with a contrary wind, wonderfully to our refreſhment; then upon our parting from theſe three Ships, we were brought to ask counſel at the Lord, and the word was from him, *Cut through, and ſteer your ſtreighteſt courſe, and minde nothing but me*, unto which thing he much provoked us, and cauſed us to meet together every day, and he himſelf met with us, and manifeſted himſelf largely unto us, ſo that by ſtorms we were not prevented above three times in all our Voyage; The Sea was my figure, for if any thing got up within, the Sea without roſe up againſt me, and then the Floods clapt their hands, of which in time I took notice, and told *H. N.* Again in a viſion in the night I ſaw ſome Anchors ſwimming above the water, and ſome thing alſo of a Ship which croſt our way, which in our meeting I ſaw fulfilled, for I my ſelf with others, had loſt ours, ſo that for a little ſeaſon the Veſſels run looſe in a maner, which afterwards by the wiſdom of God was recovered into a better condition then before: Alſo upon the twenty fifth day of the ſame moneth in the morning, we ſaw another great Veſſel making up towards us, which did appear a far off to have been a Frigot, and made her ſign for us to come to them, which unto me was a great croſs, we being to windward of them; and it was ſaid, *Go ſpeak him, the croſs is ſure, did I ever fail thee therein?* and unto others there appeared no danger in it, ſo that we did, and it proved a Tradeſman of *London*, by whom we writ back; Alſo it is very remarkable, when we had been five weeks at Sea in a dark ſeaſon, wherein the powers of darkneſs appeared in the greateſt ſtrength againſt us, having ſayled but about 300 leagues, *H. N.* falling into communion with God, told me that he had received a comfortable Anſwer, and

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alſo that about ſuch a day we ſhould land in *America*, which was even ſo fulfilled; Alſo thus it was all the Voyage with the faithful, which were carried far above ſtorms and tempeſts, that when the Ship went either to the right or left hand, their lines joyned all as one, and did direct her way, ſo that we have ſeen and ſaid, we ſee the Lord lead our Veſſel, even as it were a man leading a horſe by the head, we regarding neither latitude nor longitude, but kept to our Line, which was, and is our Leader, Guide and Rule, but they that did, failed. Upon the laſt day of the fifth moneth we made land, it was part of the *Long Iſland*, far contrary to the expectation of the Pylot; Furthermore our drawing had been all the Voyage to keep to the Southwards, until the evening before we made land, and then the word was, *There is a Lion in the way*, unto which Lion we gave obedience, and ſaid, Let them ſteer Northwards until the day following, and ſoon after the middle of the day, there was drawings to meet together before our uſual time, and it was ſaid, That we may look abroad in the evening, and as we ſate waiting upon the Lord, they diſcovered the land, and our mouthes was opened in Prayer and Thankſgiving; as way was made, we made towards it, and eſpying a Creek, our advice was to enter there, but the will of man reſiſted, but in that eſtate we had learned to be content, and told him both ſides was ſafe, but going that way would be more trouble to him; alſo he ſaw after he had laid by all the night, the thing fulfilled.

Now to lay before you in ſhort, the largeneſs of the Wiſdom, Will and Power of God, Thus this Creek led us in between the *Dutch Plantation* and *Long Iſland*, where the moving of ſome friends whereunto, which other-

otherwiſe had been very difficult for them to have gotten too: Alſo the Lord God that moved them, brought them to the place appointed, and us into our way, according to the word which came to *C. H. You are in the road to Road Iſland.* In that Creek came a Shallop to meet us, taking us to be ſtrangers, making our way with our Boat, and they ſpoke Engliſh unto us, and informed us, and alſo guided us along: The power of the Lord fell much upon us, and an unreſiſtable word came unto us, *That the Seed in* America *ſhall be as the ſand of the ſea.* It was publiſhed in the ears of the Brethren, which cauſed tears to break forth with fulneſs of joy, ſo that preſently for theſe places they prepared themſelves, which were *Robert Hoggen, Richard Dowdney, Sarah Gibbins, Mary Witherhead,* and *Dorothy Waugh,* which the next day were put ſafely aſhore: Into the Dutch Plantation called *New Amſterdam,* we came, and it being the firſt day of the week, ſeveral came aboard on us, and we begun our work: I was cauſed to go to the Governor, and *Robert Hoggen* with me; he was moderate both in words and actions. *Robert* and I had ſeveral days before ſeen in a viſion the Veſſel in great danger; the day following this was fulfilled, there being a paſſage between two Lands, which is called by the name of *Hell-gate,* we happened very conveniently of a Pylot, and into that place we came, and into it were forced, and over it was carried, which I never heard of any before that was; and the Scripture is fulfilled in our eyes, in the Figure, *Hells gates* cannot prevail againſt you: rocks many on both ſides, ſo that I believe one yards length, would have endangered loſs of both Veſſel and Goods; Alſo there were a ſcull of fiſhes purſued our Veſſel, and followed her ſtrongly, and along cloſe by our Rudder;

and in our meeting it was shewed me, These fishes is to thee a Figure, Thus doth the Prayers of the Churches proceed to the Lord for thee and the rest: surely in our meeting did the thing run through me as oyl, and did me much rejoyce.

FINIS.

Books lately printed, and sold at the *Anchor & Mariner* in Tower-street, at Mincing-lane end.

The Young Sea-mans Guide, or the Mariners Almanack, containing an Ephemeris *with the use thereof, teaching every ordinary Capacity how to give an Astronomical Judgement of the Wind and Weather, and in what Quarter the Wind will sit, from the Lunations and Suns quarterly Ingresses; also the Names and Natures of all the 32 Winds, with several Tables of Houses fitted for several Latitudes, viz. for the elevation of 13,40,45, and 55 degrees. By* Tim. Gadbury *Philomath.*

The Right Devil discovered, in his Descent, Form, Education, Qualification, Place and nature of Torment, with many other Divine Secrets, never as yet extant. By Laur. Claxton.

Good News to some, bad News to others: Or the last Intelligence from our glorified Jesus, wherein is discovered, how that every Soul that is defiled with sin in the Body, shall die, and sleep in the dust with the Body; also the nature of its rest, with the maner of its waking at the Resurrection, &c. By John Reeve *and* Lodwick Muggleton.